



Your Gateway to Volunteers-In-Parks News Winter 2015

21st Century Conservation Corps

In 1933, one of Franklin D. Roosevelt's first 'New Deal' projects was the formation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was designed to promote environmental conservation, and at the same time, build good citizens through hard and disciplined labor. Through the corps, Roosevelt hoped to relieve rural unemployment and keep the country's youth off city streets. The corps, made up of over 500,000 men, planted millions of trees, and was responsible for over half the reforestation of public and private land.

Today, this legacy is being carried on by President Obama's 'America's Great Outdoors Initiative' (AGO). The initiative, 21st century conservation and recreation agenda, is designed to put America's youth and veterans to work, protect, restore and enhance our great outdoors.

In 2012, a federal advisory committee provided recommendations to Secretaries of the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture on how to plan and implement the President's Initiative. According to an online article of 'The Corps Network' the first recommendation was to establish a 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) that would engage young Americans in public lands and water conservation.

As Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell passionately believes it is vital that we encourage our youth to become involved in the outdoors by volunteering in our public lands and parks. With Interior of Department Employees becoming eligible for retirement, Jewells believes young people need to become engaged in fields related to land management and conservation to preserve public lands. In order to do this, Jewell looks to expand the youth conservation corps across the country by working with the private sector to raise \$20 million. This past May, Jewell announced \$6.7 million in grants to support the 21CSC's mission-a 60% increase over last year's funding.

21CSC Goals as listed in 'The Corps Network'

- Put Americans to work by providing service, training, education, and employment opportunities for young Americans and veterans, including low income and disadvantaged youth.



Secretary Jewell enjoys a day of kayaking.

- Preserve, protect, and promote America's greatest gifts. The 21CSC will protect, restore and enhance public lands and waters as well as natural, cultural, and historical resources treasure. With high-quality, cost-effective project work, the 21CSC will also increase public access and use while spurring economic development.
- Build America's future. Through service to America, the 21CSC will help develop a generation of skilled workers, educated and active citizens, future leaders, and stewards of natural and cultural resources, communities and the nation.

Join the Conversation



Facebook.com/GatewayNPS
@GatewayNPS
Nps.gov/gate



Learn about Volunteering
Scan the QR Code





Photo Credits: Pat Holohan – Gateway Volunteer

FLEOA Partners with Gateway National Recreation Area on Beach Clean-up in Support of Interior Secretary Sally 21st Century Initiative

On Saturday, November 8, 2014, FLEOA partnered with the National Park Service at the Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City to conduct a beach clean-up adjacent to the Bay Blvd bridge abutments.

In support of Department of The Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's Work & Training Opportunities 21st Century Initiative, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) collaborated with the Sheep Dog Veterans Group and the Explorer Posts for the DEA and FBI New York City field offices.

Fifty Explorers from the FBI and thirteen from the DEA and their field chaperones worked with representatives from FLEOA, Sheep Dog and the National Park Service for six hours under clear but cold skies to remove trash and debris from the beach and bulkhead areas.

The event organized by FLEOA National, NYC Chapter 1, Kevin Mannion, FBI Outreach Specialist for the NYC Field Office and Sydney White from the NYC DEA Field Office Explorer Post, was approved by NPS Commissioner Joshua Laird. Gateways Volunteer Coordinator, Keith White provided an overview of the project and public recreation opportunities at the Gateway National Recreation Area. In addition to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge administered by the National Park Service off Crossbay Blvd, there are numerous other opportunities at Floyd Bennett Field, including but not limited to, public camping, hiking, walking, jogging, kayaking, sky gazing and summer flower and

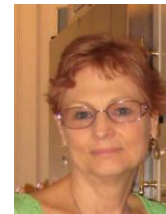
After the beach clean-up was completed, FLEOA provided a pizza party for all participants at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

FLEOA is working this winter with the National Park Service to formalize a Friends Group Agreement. Once the Friends Agreement is formalized next spring, FLEOA in collaboration with its partners and the NPS, hope to restore two ball fields at Frank Charles Park.

FLEOA is hopeful to see Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's Work & Training Opportunities 21st Century Initiative expanded to other parts of the country through their chapters.



Photo Credits: Pat Holohan – Gateway Volunteer



Hello, my name is Pat Holohan, and I am a volunteer for Gateway National Recreational Area. Before retiring in 2013, I worked 27 years in a company communications department of a large Japanese corporation. During that time I started, developed and wrote the employee newsletter. Now, I will be assisting Keith White, Gateway Volunteer Coordinator with writing, editing, and publishing Gateway's quarterly newsletter the 'Gateway Chronicle'. I am excited with this new opportunity to serve the Gateway diverse communities and look forward to meeting all the Gateway's Volunteers-In-Parks members.